GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:795
ANSWERED ON:12.07.2004
NON -AVAILABILITY OF FODDER FOR CATTLE
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of work done by the task force on drought;

(b) whether fodders are not available for the cattle;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILALBHURIA)

(a): The Task Force on drought constituted on 30th July, 2002 to deal with the emergency arising out of the drought of 2002 was discontinued on 30th June, 2003. Under its directions a very severe drought was successfully managed with central relief assistance of Rs.13,002 crores-Rs.4215 crores as monetary assistance and Rs.8787 crores as food grains to the affected states.

(b)to(d): As per the projected estimates by the Working Group on Animal Husbandry for formulation of the Xth Plan, as against the fodder requirement of 1594 million Tons, availability is 833 million Tons approximately. The shortfall of 761 million Tons consists of 635 million Tons green fodder and 126 million Tons dry fodder. Factors like increase in cattle population, rapid urbanization, low yield of dry fodder from the high yielding varieties of grain crops and recurring natural calamities etc., have contributed to this deficit. While the primary responsibility to augment fodder supply is Â¦with the States, Central Government has taken certain initiatives to eliminate the estimated gaps. These are:

(i) Establishment of Central Fodder Development Organization consisting 7 Regional Stations for Forage Production and Demonstration and a Central Fodder Seed Production Farm for production of high yielding varieties of fodder seeds to assist the States in enhancing fodder production including the relevant extension activities.

(ii) Annual Supply of fodder minikits free of cost to farmers through the State Governments.